

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

November 29, 2000

IN RE:

**PETITION FOR ARBITRATION OF AN
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
AND US LEC OF TENNESSEE, INC. PURSUANT
TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996**

**DOCKET NO.
00-00053**

ORDER ACCEPTING PETITION FOR ARBITRATION

This matter came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") at the August 1, 2000 Authority Conference upon the filing of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") for arbitration of an interconnection agreement pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Petition") with US LEC of Tennessee, Inc. (US LEC).

BellSouth filed its Petition for Arbitration on January 25, 2000. On February 10, 2000, US LEC filed an agreed motion requesting a ninety (90) day extension to file its response to BellSouth's Petition and consenting to a ninety (90) day extension of the Authority's nine (9) month deadline for resolving interconnection agreement arbitrations pursuant to section 252((b)(4)(C) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. In support of its motion, US LEC explained that other arbitrations currently pending before the Authority involve issues similar to those presented by BellSouth in the instant Petition. US LEC argued that by waiting for a final determination in these other arbitrations, duplicative litigation could be avoided. The motion was approved at the February 29, 2000 Authority Conference and was memorialized by order issued May 22, 2000.

POSTED
11-30-00

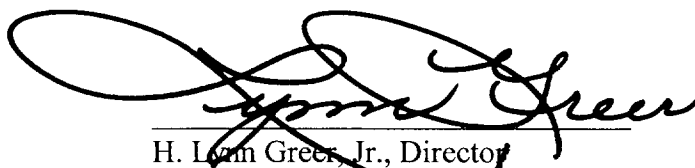
On May 19, 2000, US LEC filed a motion to defer further proceedings in this docket for ninety (90) days. On June 30, 2000, BellSouth and US LEC filed a letter stating that the parties had agreed to defer the arbitration proceeding an additional 30 days from the date of the letter and to extend the statutory deadline for resolution of this proceeding by a commensurate period of time.

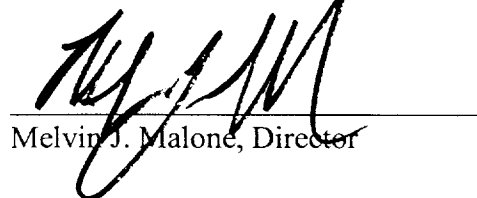
At the August 1, 2000 Authority Conference, the Directors voted unanimously to accept the Petition for Arbitration and to appoint themselves as arbitrators. The Directors then appointed the general counsel or his designee as the Pre-Arbitration Officer for the purposes of establishing a procedural schedule and making necessary preparations of the case, including directing a negotiation/mediation meeting if warranted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:


1. BellSouth's Petition for Arbitration is accepted, and
2. Any party aggrieved with the Authority's decision in this matter may file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Authority within fifteen (15) days from and after the date of this Order.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director


Melvin J. Malone, Director

ATTEST:


K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary